

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

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P R 101400Z APR 78

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO USINFO WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 8125

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 LUSAKA 1243

FOR PGM/RC

FOR VOA/PA, FOR PGM/PP

STATE FOR AF, AF/E, AF/S

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TAGS: -

SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION

IN AN IN-DEPTH FEATURE ARTICLE APRIL 8, THE GOVERNMENT-OWNED ZAMBIA DAILY MAIL NEWSPAPER ANALYSED THE RECENT TRIP TO NIGERIA BY PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER.

THE ARTICLE, HEADLINED: "CARTER'S VISIT TO NIGERIA: WAS IT A COURTESY CALL TO APPEASE BLACK AFRICA?", OPENS BY DECLARING THAT UNTIL THERE ARE RADICAL CHANGES IN UNITED STATES POLICY IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, PARTICULARLY TOWARDS RACIST SOUTH AFRICA, AMERICAN PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER'S THREE-DAY VISIT TO NIGERIA IS LIKELY TO BE VIEWED AS NOTHING MORE THAN A MERE "COURTESY CALL" TO APPEASE BLACK AFRICA.

THE AUTHOR, MAIL FEATURES EDITOR GILBERT MAWARIRE, SAID AS REFLECTED FROM THE COMMUNIQUE SIGNED WITH NIGERIAN HEAD OF STATE LIEUTENANT GENERAL OLUSEGUN OBASANJO, "CARTER'S VISIT UNCLASSIFIED

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ENTRENCHED THE VAST CHASM OF DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE U.S. AND BLACK AFRICA ON HOW TO BREAK THE BACKBONE OF RACIST SOUTH AFRICA."

MR. MAWARIRE SAID "CHAMPAGNE MUST HAVE FLOWED IN PRETORIA OVER CARTER'S REJECTION OF LT. GENERAL OBASANJO'S APPEAL FOR THE U.S. TO MOVE TOWARDS ECONOMIC SANCTIONS AGAINST THE RACIST

REPUBLIC."

THE ARTICLE SAID BLACK AFRICA MUST BE DISAPPOINTED WITH MR. CARTER'S TRIP BECAUSE THE AMERICAN LEADER HAD SEEMINGLY NOTHING NEW TO OFFER IN THE SOLUTION OF THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN PROBLEM "EXCEPT THE USUAL RHETORIC ATTACKING APARTHEID" AND AGREEING WITH OBASANJO ON MAJORITY RULE IN NAMIBIA AND RHODESIA.

WROTE THE MAIL EDITOR: "WHAT THE PRESIDENT'S SOJOURN ACHIEVED APART FROM INCREASED U.S.-NIGERIAN ECONOMIC LINKS, COULD REMAIN WHAT IT IS UP TO NOW -- A PSYCHOLOGICAL BOOST TO BLACK AFRICA FOR HAVING BEEN VISITED BY AN AMERICAN PRESIDENT FOR THE FIRST TIME"

IN THE VIEW OF THE AUTHOR, PRESIDENT CARTER'S SOUTHERN AFRICAN POLICY HAS BECOME "SOMETHING OF A JIGSAW PUZZLE AND A FUMBLE OF CONFUSION" BECAUSE OF HIS FAILURE TO MATCH HIS WORDS WITH ACTION.

AFRIC AND THE WORLD EXPECTED MR. CARTER TO ANNOUNCE A MAJOR ACTION ORIENTED POLICY ON SOUTHERN AFRICA.

HE NOTED THAT ON ITS ASCENDANCY TO POWER, THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION SET ABOUT ITS SOUTHERN AFRICAN POLICY WITH SUCH ZEAL THAT EVERYBODY WAS SUDDENLY OPTIMISTIC THAT THERE WOULD BE QUICK CHANGE
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IN THE PROBLEM WITH THE STEPPING IN OF "THE WORLD POWER."

"THE PACKAGE 'DEAL' OFFERED BY (FORMER SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY) KISSINGER, HOWEVER, WAS IN FACT SO DECEITFUL THAT PRESIDENT KAUNDA WHO HAD EARLIER PRAISED KISSINGER, PUBLICLY

DENOUNCED HIM AND SAID HE HAD CHEATED AFRICA," THE ARTICLE SAID.

BUT THE ARTICLE NOTED: "IT IS TRUE, HOWEVER, TO SAY THAT THE LITTLE THAT CARTER HAS DONE, PARTICULARLY ON THE RHODESIAN ISSUE AND ITS CONCERN OVER SOUTH AFRICA IS MORE THAN ANY OTHER PREVIOUS US GOVERNMENT HAS DONE IN TWO HUNDRED YEARS OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE. HIS CO-OPERATION WITH THE INEFFECTIVE BRITISH IN WORKING OUT THE FLOUNDERING ANGLO-AMERICAN PLAN AND ITS CURRENT 'MIDDLE-OF-THE-ROAD' STANCE OVER THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT AT LEAST, SHOWS A MATURITY OF PURPOSE."

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IT IS THE OPINION OF THE AUTHOR THAT IT IS OVER SOUTH AFRICA
WHERE AMERICA IS ONLY SCRATCHING THE SURFACE. "THE HALF-
HEARTED MEASURES WITH WHICH CARTER IS TACKLING THE APARTHEID
ISSUE HAS HAD NO EFFECT
AT ALL ON THE RACIST REGIME," HE WROTE.

HE WENT ON TO CITE WHAT HE TERMED THE "VIENNA CONFRONTATION"
BETWEEN VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE AND SOUTH AFRICAN PRIME MINISTER
JOHN VORSTER IN MAY 1977 AT WHICH MR. MONDALE WARNED VORSTER
NOT TO EXPECT ANY US HELP IN ANY CRISIS PROVOKED BY RACIAL
POLICIES AS "SIGNIFICANT."

ANOTHER GESTURE OF THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S ABHORRENCE
OF APARTHEID, SAID THE WRITER, WAS WHEN "CONTROVERSIAL" AMBASSADOR
ANDREW YOUNG WAS DISPATCHED TO SOUTH AFRICA LATER THE SAME
YEAR DURING WHICH HE TOLD WHITE SOUTH AFRICANS THAT MR. CARTER
WOULD KNOW HOW TO DEAL WITH THEM SINCE HE HAD DEALT WITH
PEOPLE LIKE VORSTER ALL HIS LIFE.

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IN ADDITION, THE CALL TO DISCOURAGE FURTHER US INVESTMENTS
IN SOUTH AFRICA "AND THE SOMEWHAT UNEXPECTED US BACKING OF A
UN ARMS EMBARGO AGAINST PRETORIA WERE OTHER NOTABLE DECISIONS
THE US HAS TAKEN. "BUT THESE MEASURES ARE INSIGNIFICANT WHEN

WIGHED AGAINST THE POSSIBLE IMPACT OF ECONOMIC SANCTIONS ON THE RACISTS. THE US, BRITAIN AND FRANCE DID NOT HESITATE TO VETO ECONOMIC SANCTIONS, SAYING THE ARMS BAN WAS SEVERE ENOUGH."

THE ARTICLE SAID AMERICAN-LED WESTERN REFUSAL TO SUPPORT ECONOMIC SANCTIONS AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA IS BASED ON THE SELFISH REASON OF FEARING TO LOSE MONEY THROUGH THEIR INVESTMENTS IN SOUTH AFRICA. "HERE LIES THE CONFLICT BETWEEN AMERICA AND AFRICA AND POSSIBLY THE MAJOR DIFFERENCE BETWEEN OBASANJO AND CARTER DURING THE 'LAGOS SUMMIT.'"

THE ARTICLE CONCLUDED: "IT IS WITH THIS HACKGROUND THAT BLACK AFRICA IS INDIGNATED BY THE DOUBLE STANDARDS AND INABILITY OF THE WEST, PARTICULARLY THE UNITED STATES, TO TAKE DECISIVE ACTION IF THEY ARE GENUINE IN THEIR PRONOUNCEMENTS TO AVERT A RACIAL BLOODBATH IN THIS REGION. THE UNITED STATES AS THE WESTERN GIANT IS OBVIOUSLY INTERESTED IN SEEING THE END OF APARTHEID IN SOUTH AFRICA, BUT IT IS NOT DOING ENOUGH AND UNTIL IT DECIDES TO PUT ITS FOOT DOWN ON SOUTH AFRICA, JIMMY CARTER'S NIGERIAN SOJOURN WILL REMAIN ONLY OF PSYCHOLOGICAL BENEFIT -- AT LEAST TO US IN THIS REGION." ITEM ICA LUSAKA. O'BRIEN

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